

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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MEMORANDUM FOR PRS (In-House Publication)

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16 Mar 2001

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: AFRL-PR-ED-VG-2001-054
Miller, T.C., "Crack Growth Rates in a Propellant Under Various Conditions" (VuGraphs)

SEM Annual Conf. on Experimental Mechanics
(Portland, OR, 4-6 June 2001) (Deadline: 16 May 2001)

(Statement A)

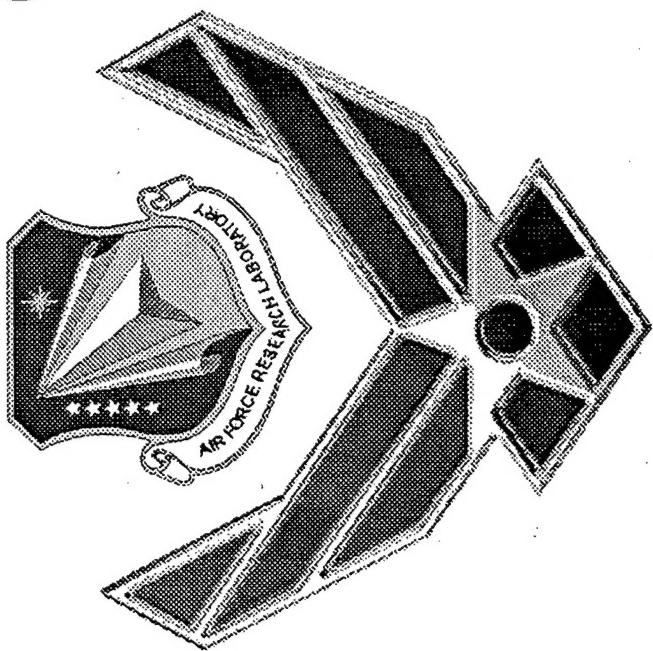
PRESSURE EFFECTS AND SURFACE CRACKS IN A RUBBERY PARTICULATE COMPOSITE

04 Jun 01

T. C. Miller

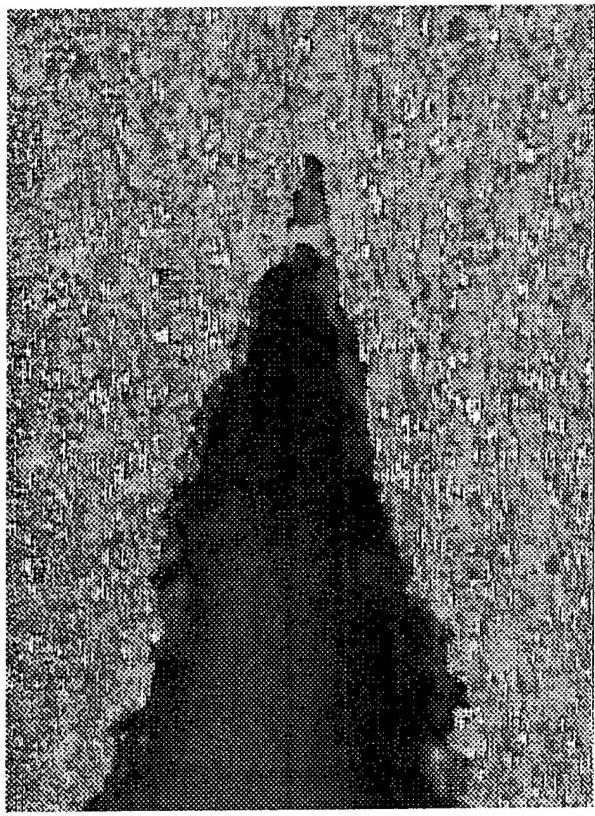
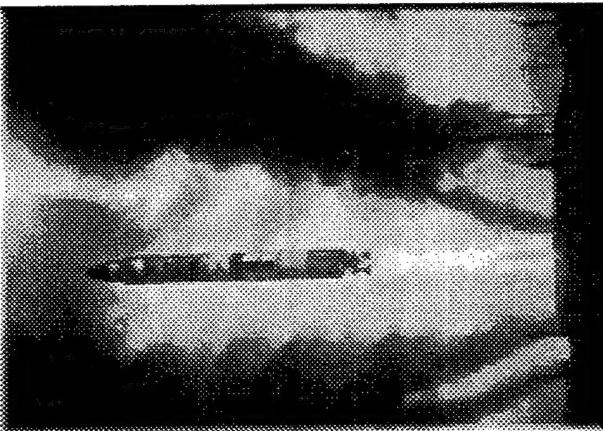
Engineer

Propulsion Directorate
Air Force Research Laboratory



Introduction

- Cracks develop during manufacturing, handling, and storage of rubbery particulate composites
- Previous tests used single edge notched tension (SENT) specimens. In this work, surface cracked specimens are compared with the previous results
- Results for ambient and pressurized test conditions are also compared



Introduction

Experimental Procedure

Analysis of Data

Results and Discussion

Summary and Conclusions

Rubber Particulate Composite Experiences Pressurization During Service Life



Introduction

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Summary and
Conclusions

- Pressure affects fracture behavior by suppressing void nucleation, growth, and coalescence
- Both initiation of growth and subsequent growth rates are affected
- Applying ambient test data can result in overly conservative predictions

Experimental Procedure

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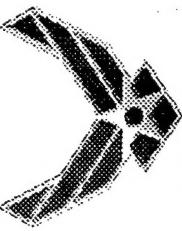
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Summary and
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- Specimen geometries and test matrix
- Test conditions
- Equipment

Specimen Geometries and Test Matrix



Introduction

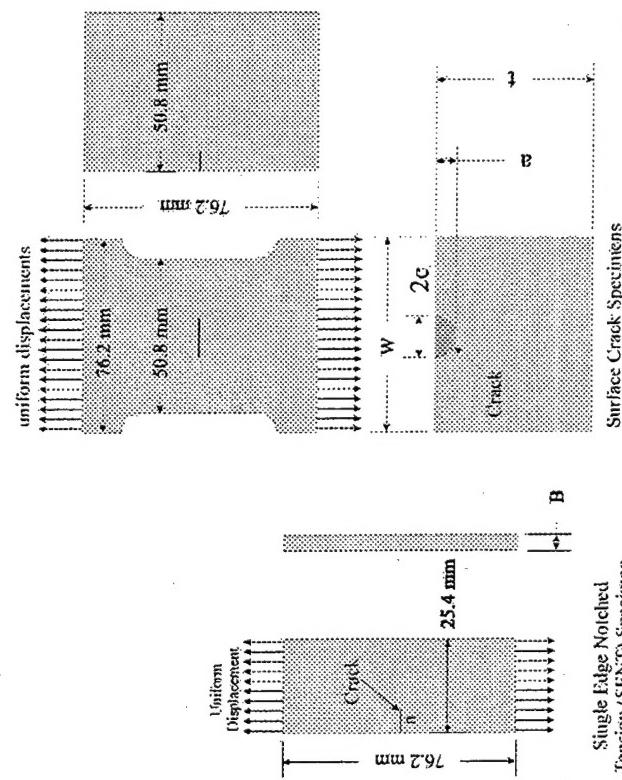
- Razor blade cutting devices used to form initial cracks
- Side cutouts needed for surface cracked specimens
- For SENT specimens, thickness and initial crack size were varied

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Surface Crack Specimens

Single Edge Notched Tension (SENT) Specimen

Number of SENT specimens tested	B [mm]	2.54	7.62	12.70
5.08	3	3	3	3
12.70	3	3	3	3
38.10	3	3	3	3

Number of surface cracked specimens tested

6

Test Conditions

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- Ambient temperature
- Ambient pressure and 6895 kpa pressure
(nitrogen gas)
- Constant strain rate tests (0.067 mm/mm/min)

Equipment

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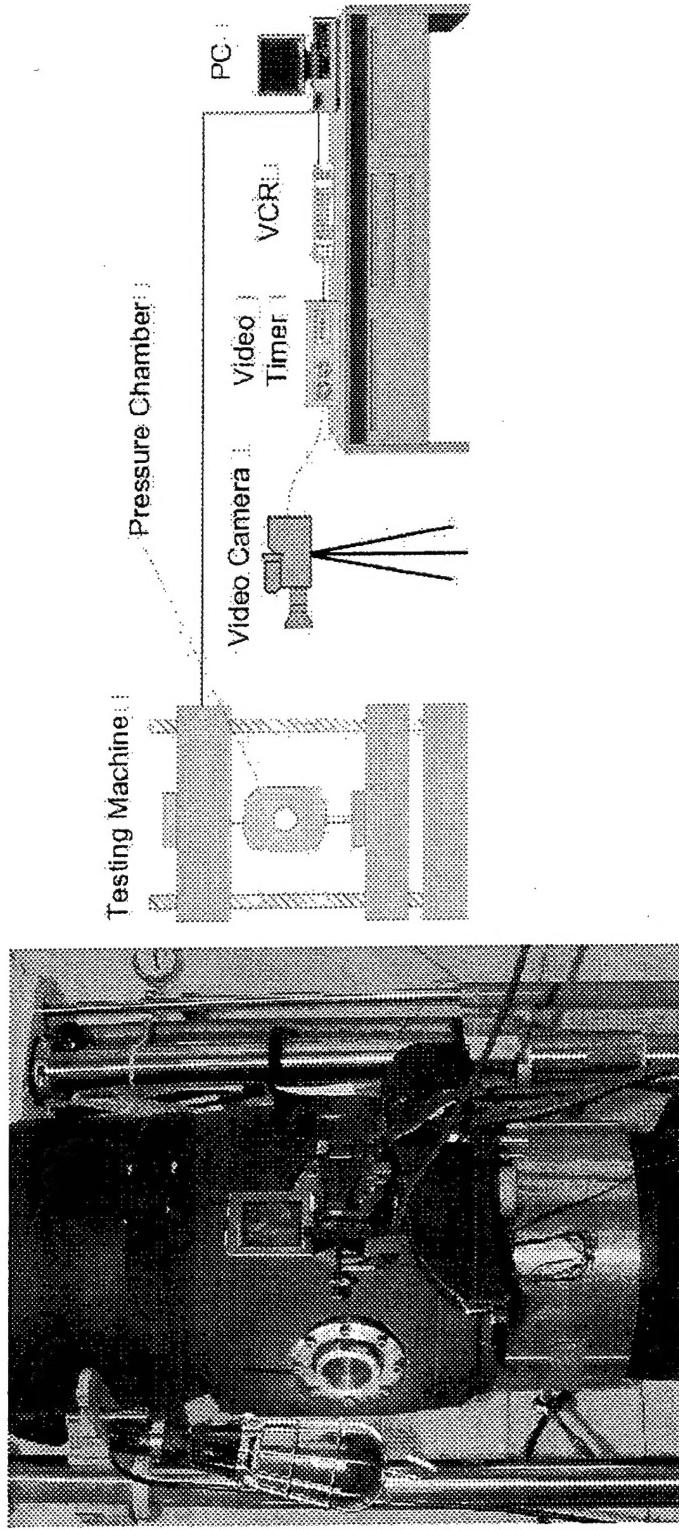
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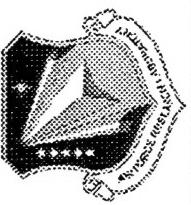
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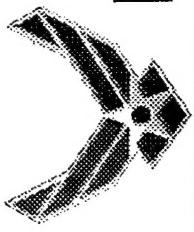
Summary and
Conclusions

- Testing machine
- Pressure test chamber
- Videotape equipment





Fixture Is Used to Apply Uniform Displacement Boundary Conditions



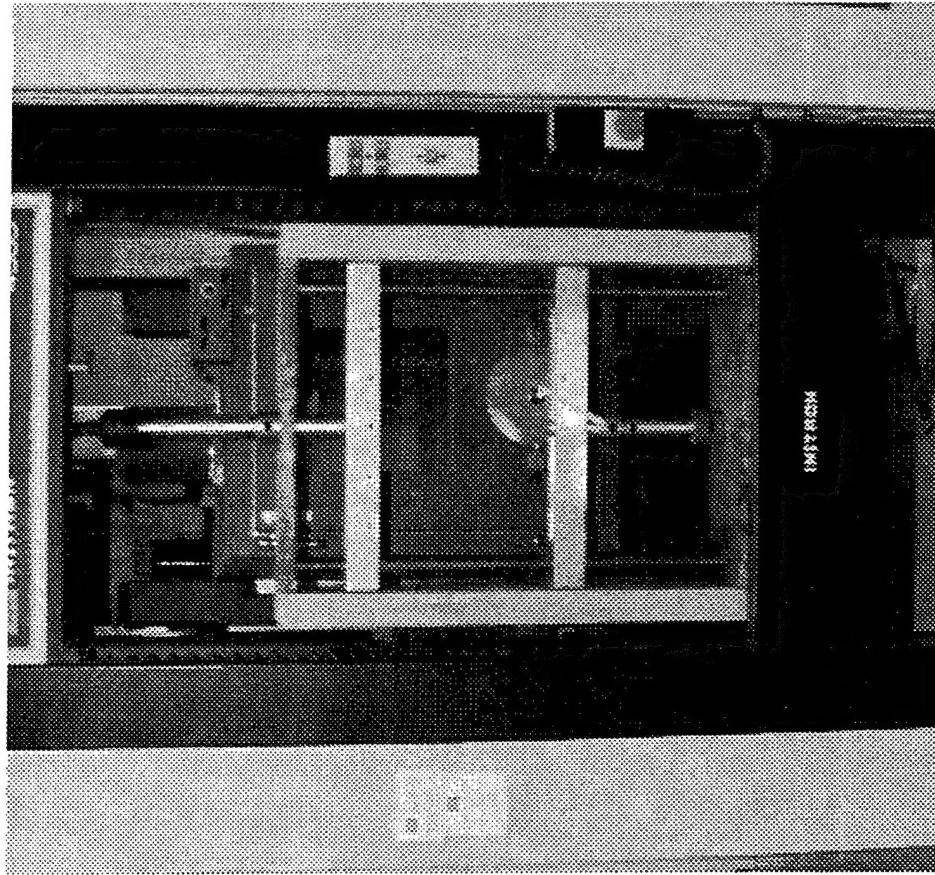
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Analysis of Data

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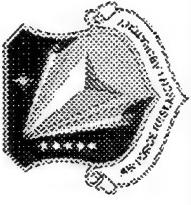
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- **Step 1:** data acquisition
- **Step 2:** determining da/dt and K_1
- **Step 3:** relating da/dt and K_1



Analysis of Data

Step 1: Data Acquisition

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- Use videotape to determine initiation of growth
- Use videotape to measure crack size vs. Time from initiation until maximum load
 - For surface cracks, depth could not be directly measured
- Use test machine data to determine loads at these same times

Analysis of Data

Step 2: Determining da/dt and K_I



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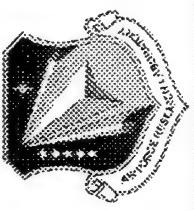
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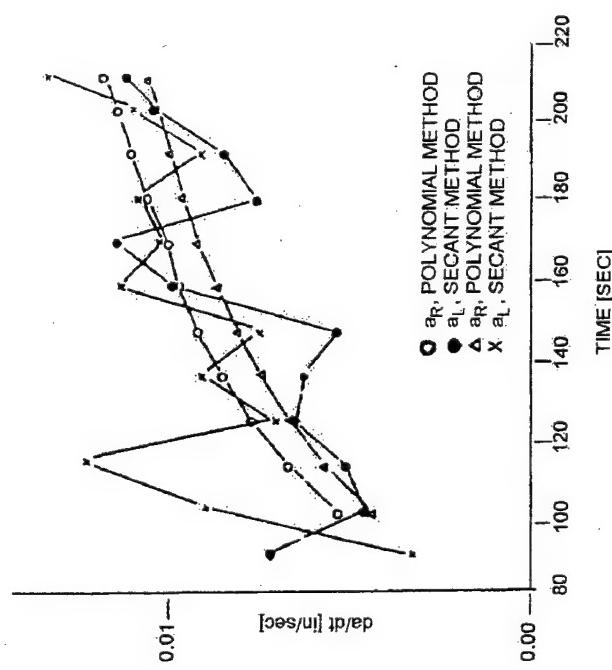
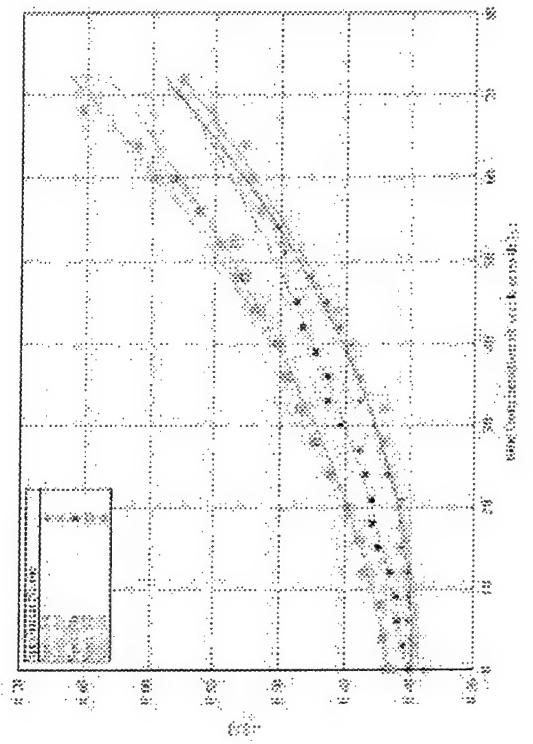
Summary and Conclusions

- Use load and geometric correction factors to determine K_I at these same times
 - Geometric correction factors come from finite element analyses
 - For surface cracks, semicircular crack front is assumed throughout growth
- Use crack size vs. Time data to determine da/dt at these same times
 - Crack speed is nonuniform due to microstructural phenomena
 - Polynomial curve fits of a vs. T are used; derivatives give growth rate



NonSmooth Nonuniform Crack Growth

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Analysis of Data

Step 3: Relating Da/dt and K_i

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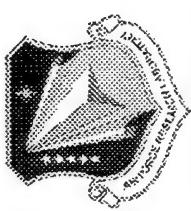
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- Da/dt and K_i can now be related for each test:

$$\frac{da}{dt} = CK_I^m$$



Results and Discussion

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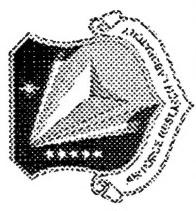
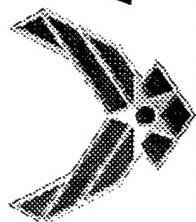
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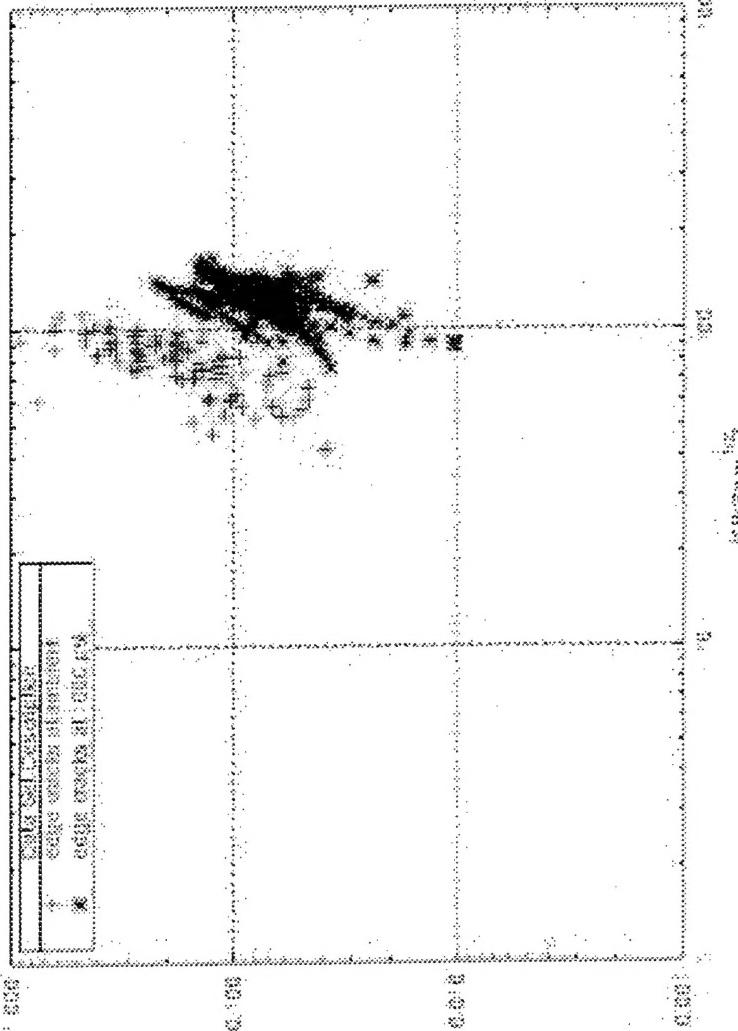
Summary and
Conclusions

- Ambient vs. Pressurized test condition comparisons
- SENT and surface cracked specimen comparisons

Ambient Vs. Pressurized Conditions



- Pressure causes crack growth to slow
- Microstructural explanation
- Implication: ambient data may be overly conservative for pressurized service conditions



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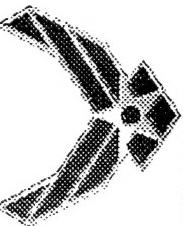
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SENT and Surface Cracked Specimen Comparisons



Introduction

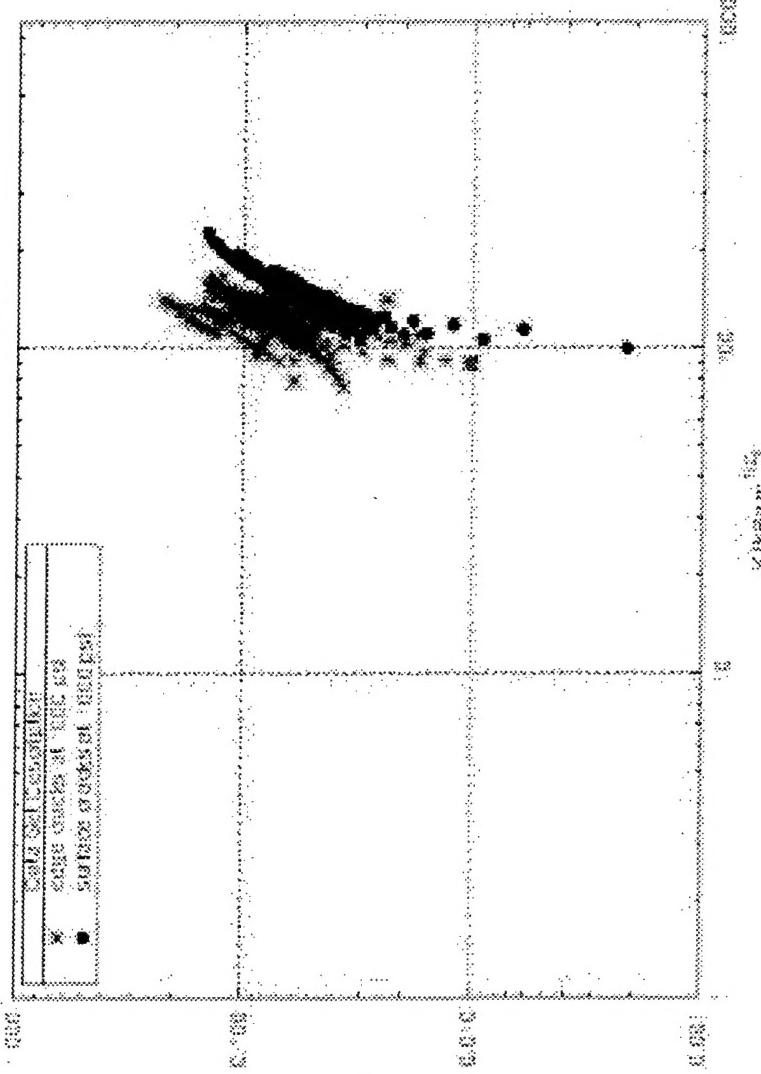
Experimental Procedure

Analysis of Data

- Similar growth rates found for both geometries
- Implication: SENT data can be used instead of testing with surface cracked specimens

Results and Discussion

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Combination of All Data

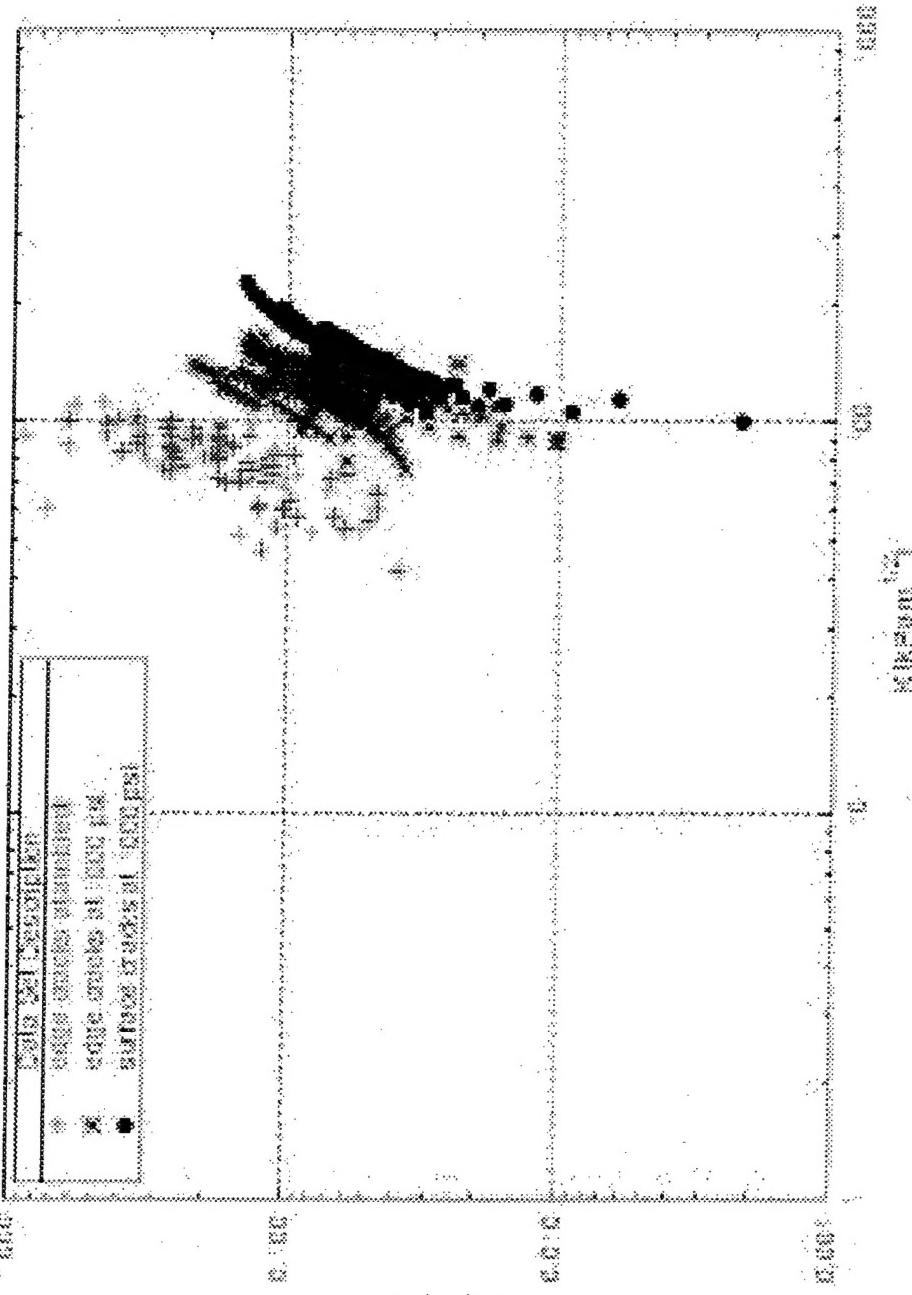
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Summary and Conclusions

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Summary and Conclusions

- Summary: this work has investigated the effect of pressure on fracture behavior of a rubbery particulate composite, and has compared the results for two different crack geometries under pressure. Pressure delays the onset of crack growth and slows the subsequent growth rate. The results for the two specimen geometries tested under pressure (SENT and surface cracked specimens) show good agreement.
- Conclusions:
 - Pressure inhibits the start of crack growth and slows the subsequent crack growth
 - Pressurized test data should be used to test for pressurized service conditions

⇒ SENT specimens can be used rather than surface cracked specimens

For the material and crack geometry considered in this study,